

ANNOUNCING JANUARY'S SPOT AWARDS

Richard "Scott" Blackwell

(Nominated by Dwayne Stepter and Judy Schuerman)

I am pleased to nominate Richard (Scott) Blackwell for the LDEQ Spot Award. He is an Environmental Scientist DCL-A in the Office of Environmental Compliance/Emergency and Radiological Services Division. Richard (Scott) Blackwell wears numerous hats in the Emergency and Radiological Services Division in conjunction with performing various types of Radiation inspections. Some of the many hats Scott wears are the State Liason Officer (SLO), which requires technical knowledge and work expertise in order to communicate confidently with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on all radiation issues. He maintains the Nuclear Medicine Evaluation Database (NMED), where he is responsible for notifying the NRC Tech OP Center of all reportable radiation events that takes place in the state of Louisiana. Scott is one of four of the twelve radiation inspectors on staff that conducts Federal Drug and Administration (FDA) compliance inspections, Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) inspections as well as the division's routine inspections. He was the first recipient of the Radiation Trail Blazer Award which is given to the top radiation inspector each year. His professionalism while conducting inspections is a credit to the department. He is very attentive and is detail oriented which results in him being an exceptional employee. He demonstrates an exceptional understanding of how his work contributes to the success of the Emergency and Radiological Services Division. Scott has received numerous comments regarding his outstanding job performance from the Emergency



Richard "Scott" Blackwell receiving his SPOT award

and Radiological Services Division Administrator, Manager, and Senior DCL. One of the most recent comments Scott has received came from Secretary Peggy Hatch regarding Scott's method of reporting work productive for the Radiation inspectors. Secretary Hatch recommended that all other divisions in OEC adopt Scott's reporting method. He utilizes TEMPO, EDMS, Discoverer and Excel to track, obtain and maintain information on all categories of radiation inspections (such as Initial inspections, Routine inspections Priority 1,2, and 3, Increase Control inspections, X-ray inspections and Performance Indicators) that aids the Radiation supervisor in ensuring that outstanding inspections are performed and that the most current information is entered. Scott keeps both the Radiation supervisor and manager informed of any adverse situations regarding the tracking of inspections that need to be performed. I know it is believed that anyone can be replaced and that may be true, however, I believe we will be hard pressed to find someone of Scott's

caliber, consistency, commitment, dedication and professionalism. Scott is an individual who not only knows his job, he applies what he knows and is always willing to do it and more.

Dwayne Stepter

I nominate Richard “Scott” Blackwell for the January SPOT Award. Scott was instrumental in securing a \$12,500 grant from the Waste Isolation Pilot Program (WIPP) that enabled us to purchase a state-of-the-art piece of equipment, the BNC SAM 940 Defender. This instrument is a radioactive isotope identification device for surveillance and measurement; it can identify unknown radioactive material that may be encountered during radiation response activities. Scott wrote and submitted all the paperwork to obtain the grant, and then he worked with our Fiscal Services Division to overcome all the hurdles presented by them for a sole source justification (why we had to buy that particular instrument from that specific vendor). Scott ordered the instrument, received it, taught himself how to use it, and is now in the process of arranging training sessions to teach the rest of the group how to operate it. Scott is a great asset to the Radiation Section. He can always be counted on to carry a project through to a successful conclusion. He is very deserving of this award.

Judy Schuerman

Sabrina Marshall

(Nominated by Tyler Ginn)

I would like to nominate Sabrina Marshall for a Spot Award. As an Environmental Scientist in the Multi-Media Section of the Enforcement Division, Sabrina is responsible for drafting enforcement actions related to violations of the Underground Storage Tanks and Solid Waste regulations. Last



Sabrina Marshall receiving her SPOT award

year, Sabrina was responsible for drafting over 180 enforcement actions. By comparison, the average number of actions issued by an ES in the two sections is 80-100. As the number of UST referrals increased due to the new Energy Bill, Sabrina picked up her work pace.

Due to the number of expedited penalties that Sabrina has issued, she has also become a “collection agent” for the section. If she is not drafting an enforcement action, chances are that she is on the telephone with one of the Respondents trying to convince them to participate in the expedited penalty program by paying the fine and attend the mandatory training class.

In addition to maintaining her heavy workload, she volunteers to take on additional duties to assist our section and other enforcement sections. Recently, Sabrina volunteered to conduct TEMPO training for the Enforcement Division. The process for entering enforcement actions into TEMPO is covered in a 34 page SOP. Sabrina covered the process from initial entry through closure in separate two hour sessions for the entire Enforcement Division. Sabrina also developed a quick reference document for the enforcement writers to use for TEMPO entry that greatly simplifies and condenses the TEMPO SOP

and ensures the TEMPO entries by all enforcement writers are consistent with the SOP.

Sabrina also provides training related to UST enforcement for the Department's UST compliance school that is held monthly in the Regional Offices throughout the state. She also assists the Radiological and Emergency Preparedness Division as the HQ communication support for drills. She volunteered to be a science fair judge, and she volunteered to learn water enforcement to assist with the water backlog. In short, she volunteers for almost everything and still manages a high level of productivity.

Kevin Masden

(Nominated by David Oge')

I would like to nominate Kevin Masden for the Spot Award. Kevin has worked on several projects that have helped our agency operate more efficiently. He identified several ways to improve our field operations and took the initiative to develop and implement solutions.

He developed the new GPS Data Management System for the department. This new process has cut out several data handling steps. The GPS data collector can electronically submit their information directly into a database. There has been a significant improvement in the quality of the data since this new streamlined process was implemented.

Kevin also developed the Surveillance Water Quality Data Management System. It enables the field staff to electronically submit their field data. This new process has helped streamline the data entry.

Kevin also wrote a program that allows the field staff to electronically generate and print their field data sheets and chain of custody forms. This



Kevin Masden receiving his SPOT award

process has reduced the time it takes to prepare for the sampling projects. It has also improved the quality of the data.

These are only a few examples of projects that Kevin has worked on recently. He is always looking for ways to incorporate new technology into our field operations and improve efficiency. It is a pleasure to work with Kevin! He is an asset to the agency!

Kevin is always willing to stop what he is doing and help his coworkers. He gets calls all the time with questions about the new data management systems he developed. He always takes the time to help.

Sonja Loyd

(Nominated by Paula Roberts)

Sonja Loyd is an Environmental Scientist III with the Office of Environmental Services/Water Permits Division/Industrial Permits Section. Sonja is one of those rare employees who epitomizes what many employers look for in an ideal employee and some good employees strive to emulate. She brings with her this personable and peaceful

aura that makes approaching her with even a not-so-smart question easy. Her organizational and time management skills are impeccable. Her knowledge of the regulations is remarkable and her willingness to offer assistance to any and everyone in any situation is unbelievable and selfless.

On this particular occasion, I solicited Sonja's expertise to help in the review of some of my responses to comments received on a controversial permit. Without hesitation and regard to her own tight deadlines and heavy workload, she eagerly agreed. Her assistance helped me to formulate responses that were accurate and understandable to the non-technical person all while training a new employee and working on the Guidance Document for the permitting of Sugar Mill Facilities. Sonja does not do anything halfway; it is all or nothing and it is exceptional or not at all.

I marvel at her ability to wear so many hats fashionably. She is truly a positive mentor and I am thankful to be a part of the unit that employs such a person.



Sonja Loyd receiving her SPOT award

